(b) if so, what is the increase recorded during the last one year of wholesale prices and retail prices in Delhi ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to bring down the rising prices which cause great hardship to people, particularly the low income group ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of essential commodities during the past one year-ending 18-4-1992 is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 21].

(b) The average wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in Delhi during April, 1991 and April, 1992 and their percentage variation is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 22].

(c) The Government has given highest priority to contain the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities within reasonable levels and to make them available to the common man throughout the year. Imports of Palmolein oil, Pulses etc. are effected to supplement their overall availability in the open market. State Governments were also allowed to import palmolien oil directly during 1991-92 period. Efforts are being made to augment the production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds etc. in the country. Towards this end, minimum support/procurement prices of these items have been enhanced substantially. Public Distribution System has been revamped and extended to far flung, remote and hilly areas, to reach its benefits to the poorer sections of the society. For this purpose 1700 blocks have been selected in the country under the revamped PDS programme. The allocation of Rice and Wheat for PDS has been increased from 182.10 lakh tonnes in 1990 to 217.79 lakh tonnes during the year 1991. The Government has also allowed an ad-hoc increase of 5% in the monthly levy sugar allocation to all the States/UTs from August, 1991 to September, 1992. The Government have intensified the action against hoarders, black marketeers and such anti-social elements under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As a result of this, during the period 1-1-1992 to 30-4-1992 as many as 29183 raids were made, 1131 persons arrested, 1548 persons prosecuted, 54 persons convicted and goods worth Rs. 5.10 crores has been confiscated. As a result of various measures taken by the Government there has been a softening trend in the prices of some cereals, Pulses, Vegetable, Chillies, Tea Sugar, Gur, Edible oils, Kerosene and Salt in the recent past.

Corruption Charges against NCCF Officers

1153. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply to USQ 3136 in the Rajya Sabha on 19th Dec., 91 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the transporters have made fake entries as to the despatches of stocks from the producing centres octroi receipts and the delivery of stocks to the consignee societies ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that huge kickbacks were distributed amongst staff of NCCF, U.P. Handloom Corporation (UPHC) and the transporters ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Internal Audit Officer, NCCF in his enquiry report indicated that the matter be investigated by the police to achieve the break through in the alleged group corruption between officers of NCCF/UPHC and the transporters ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delaying the handing over of the investigation to CBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The investigations conducted by the NCCF do not reveal that the transporters have made fake entries.

(b) No, Sir. The investigation report does not establish the allegation.

(c) and (d) The Internal Audit Officer of the NCCF had pointed out in his report that certain matters related to this deal might be got investigated by some outside agency. Government have since handed over the matter to the CBI for investigation.

Bogus Ration Cards in the Capital

1154. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the Hindustan Times dated 25th March, 1992 under the caption "More ration claimants than the Delhi population" ; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to identify and withdraw bogus ration cards in the capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has been advising all States/UTs, including Union Territory of Delhi, to undertake regular verifications to eliminate bogus ration cards/ghost ration units. Checking and deletion of inflated units is a continual process. Delhi Administration makes all efforts to keep a check on inflated units. Special drives are also undertaken by it to eliminate inflated units. Delhi Administration has reported that, in a special drive during May-June, 1991 about 5.5 lakh bogus units were detected and eliminated.

Distribution of Cotton Yarn through PDS

1155. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrangements have been made to distribute cottan yarn, at reasonable rates under the Public Distribution System ; and

(b) if no, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the absence of dual pricing policy for hank yarn, it is not considered necessary to distribute it under the Public Distribution System.

Distribution of essential Commodities at free of cost of Madhya Pradesh

1156. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to distribute essential commodities free of cost in the drought affected tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) how long Government propose to continue this scheme in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Production of edible oils

1157. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how much edible oil is required for local consumption in India and out of which how much is produced in our country in a year ;

(b) how much of edible oil is produced from minor oil sector obtained from rice bran, cottonseed cakes, expeller cakes of mustard, sunflower, mahua seed and salseed in a year ;

(c) whether it is true that growth in the minor oil sector has been increased during the years 1985-86 and 1989-90 as a result of fiscal incentives given by Govt., if so, the details thereof ; and